includes the cutting edge, and then a friction-reducing layer is applied over the hard layer. The entire coated cutting tool, or at least a portion of the coated cutting tool that includes the cutting edge, is cryogenically treated. The coated and cryogenically treated cutting tool is mounted in a conventional manner to a conventional cutting machine, and then used cut articles containing at least a substantial amount of wood.

a1 cont'd

In The Claims:

Cancel Claims 12-15, without prejudice.

Claims 4 and 6 have been rewritten as follows:

a2

4. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the applying the coating includes:

adhering the hard layer to the cutting tool, with the adhering the hard layer to the cutting tool including adhering titanium aluminum nitride to the cutting tool; and

adhering the friction-reducing layer over the hard layer, with the adhering the friction-reducing layer including adhering tungsten carbide with carbon over the hard layer.

a3

6. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the cutting the first workpieces with the cutting edge of the coated cutting tool to produce the second workpieces includes cutting the first workpieces serially.

Add the following new Claims 16-24

a4

16. (New) A method for providing and using a cutting tool to cut a plurality of first workpieces, with each first workpiece being wood or including a substantial amount of wood, to produce a plurality of second workpieces from the first workpieces, the method comprising:

providing a cutting tool having a cutting edge;

then applying via a vacuum procedure a hard coating to at least a portion of the cutting tool that includes the cutting edge;

then applying via a vacuum procedure a friction-reducing coating over the hard coating, whereby a coated cutting tool is formed, and wherein the hard coating is harder than the friction-reducing coating and the friction-reducing coating has a lower coefficient of friction than the hard coating; and

then cutting the first workpieces, which are wood or include a substantial amount of wood, with the cutting edge of the coated cutting tool to produce the second workpieces.

17. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein:

the applying via the vacuum procedure the hard coating includes applying the hard coating directly on the cutting tool; and

the applying via the vacuum procedure the friction-reducing coating over the hard coating includes applying the friction-reducing coating directly on the hard coating.

18. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein at least the cutting edge of the cutting tool is steel.

19. (New) The method of claim 16, further comprising cryogenically treating at least a portion of the coated cutting tool that includes the cutting edge, wherein the cryogenically treating is performed prior to the cutting.

20. (New) The method of claim 16, further comprising sharpening the cutting edge of the cutting tool prior to applying the coatings to the cutting tool.

21. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein:

the applying via the vacuum procedure the hard coating includes adhering titanium aluminum nitride to the cutting tool; and

the applying via the vacuum procedure the friction-reducing coating over the hard coating includes adhering tungsten carbide with carbon over the hard coating.

22. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein at least the cutting edge of the cutting tool is steel.

23. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein:

the adhering titanium aluminum nitride to the cutting tool includes applying the titanium aluminum nitride directly on the cutting tool; and

the adhering tungsten carbide with carbon over the hard coating includes applying the tungsten carbide with carbon directly on the titanium aluminum nitride.

24. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein at least the cutting edge of the cutting tool is steel.